

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information retrieving apparatus is advantageously used in a voice operation of a vehicle navigation system. The apparatus includes a storage unit for storing the plural pieces of the candidate information composing a hierarchical structure including  $m$  hierarchies ( $m$  is a natural number not less than 2), and the apparatus retrieves a target information from the hierarchical structure. The apparatus includes an input unit for inputting information, a judging unit for judging a correspondence of the inputted information with one of the plural pieces of the candidate information and for judging the hierarchy of the candidate information if the correspondence is obtained, and a retrieving unit for retrieving one of the plural pieces of the candidate information as a target information based on a judged result of the judging unit.